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North Dakota Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Summary



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners. If you have any comments to improve this summary or local information you would like to see in the summary please send the information to; kihagel@nd.gov

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QUICK LINKS

North Dakota

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NORTH DAKOTA

Releases from Fort Peck Dam in Montana increased. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Wednesday that releases from the Fort Peck Dam in Montana were increased over the weekend to help provide more electricity to the Upper Midwest. Ice storms over the weekend snapped transmission power lines in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Eastern Montana. The Corps' Information Office said releases through the dam may range from 4,000 cubic feet per second to as high as 13,000 cubic feet per second, depending on what is needed to cover power loads and prevent blackouts. The releases will continue until crews from the Western Area Power Administration can repair the downed transmission lines. Source:

http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=37337

REGIONAL

Officials warn about phone scam regarding credit cards. A number of International Falls area residents have received fraudulent calls since January 21 as a part of a nationwide scam apparently based on compromised cell phone information. An International Falls Police Investigator said on January 22 that a block of telephone numbers with the 240 prefix and the 218 area code have been targeted by a someone who is “vishing.” In this case, the automated voice calling indicates there may be a problem with a credit or check card and says that the only way to deactivate the card is by entering into the telephone their account numbers. The scam artists are attempting to make the calls sound local, the investigator said. According to TruStar Federal Credit Union, members are being directed to ignore computer-voiced messages asking them to enter personal identification to “activate” or “confirm” their debit card or ATM cards. The computer voice has referred to the local financial institution variously as “TriStar,” or “Trust-star,” in addition to the actual name of the credit union. Source: <http://www.ifallsdailyjournal.com/news/police-reports/officals-warn-about-phone-scam-regarding-credit-cards-laurel-beager-editor-101>

Eagle Butte dialysis patients evacuated after power fails. The power outages and water shortages plaguing most of north central South Dakota made refugees out of 35 kidney dialysis patients from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and their caregivers, stranding them in Rapid City. Patients who receive dialysis three times a week at Eagle Butte on the reservation were evacuated Friday after snow and wind storms cut power to large sections of north central South Dakota. Most had little or no warning that they were leaving. Some arrived without their medicines, toiletries, money or clothing. Providing for the needs of patients and caregivers has been a challenge. It is uncertain when people can return home. Some patients were initially sent to Bismarck, Aberdeen or Pierre, but all were eventually routed to Rapid City. Those going to Pine Ridge were sent with sack lunches provided by the Rapid City Indian Hospital (Sioux San). The Travelodge allowed the group to use its kitchen to store and distribute food. The Golden Corral and the Millstone restaurants delivered warm meals on Saturday and Sunday evening. The CornerStone Rescue Mission provided some sack lunches over the weekend. By Monday, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, National Relief Charities and Western South Dakota Community Action were working to provide clothing, food, personal hygiene items and other necessities for the displaced people. Indian Health Services plans to move patients receiving treatment at Pine Ridge to the Prairie Winds Casino. One care giver said it would be at least three days after the power and water are restored before the dialysis center in Eagle Butte can accept patients. Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_ec833f00-0a38-11df-a62b-001cc4c002e0.html

Thousands without water after storm. The chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, declared a state of emergency on the sprawling reservation Tuesday. Damage from recent ice storms and strong winds left the reservation without power and water. The Tri-County/Mni Waste Water System at Eagle Butte is operated by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. The system supplies water to approximately 14,000 people on the Cheyenne Indian Reservation, the communities of Faith, Isabel and Dupree, and rural portions of Dewey, Ziebach, and Meade counties. Tri-County’s water treatment plant lost power one week ago when power lines started falling after days of fog and icing, according to the manager. With approximately four million gallons of water held in storage reservoirs, the system had enough capacity to continue operating for a few days. On January 22, generators were moved to the water system’s alternate pumping site on the Cheyenne River. It was not feasible to

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take generators 20 miles to the new pumping station on the Oahe Reservoir. As the power failures spread, a generator was used to operate the water treatment plant 20 miles south of Eagle Butte, but the plant was not operating at capacity. Without water to fill storage reservoirs, the system's users gradually started drawing down those reserves. On Sunday night, generator and filter problems at the treatment plant caused about 800,000 gallons of water to flood the treatment plant. The water was discovered Monday morning. Employees spent Monday pumping water out of the plant and assessing the damage. On Tuesday several electric motors were in Pierre being rebuilt. The damage to the plant's computerized equipment was also being assessed. If the plant is operational by Friday, only the town of Eagle Butte will have water service. The manager is reluctant to predict when system will be fully operational. Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_95604146-0ab5-11df-88a7-001cc4c03286.html

Thieves steal \$20,000 from power crew staying at Sioux Falls hotel. Sioux Falls Police say a Mississippi electric crew who were on their way to North Dakota to help restore power, lost as much as 20-thousand dollars in tools, after they were robbed at their hotel. Police say boom trucks from Chain Electric were sitting in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn Express on South Shirley Avenue, when the tools were stolen. No arrests have been made. Source: <http://www.ksfy.com/news/local/82620837.html>

Minn. House committee explores nuke waste concerns. Minnesota lawmakers have been debating whether to allow consideration of new nuclear power plants. Now they are revisiting concerns over what to do with nuclear waste they already have. The House Commerce and Labor Committee planned Monday to review legislation that would redirect some energy fees and establish the Minnesota Nuclear Waste Storage Commission. Its role would be to address safety concerns around waste from two existing nuclear plants in Red Wing and Monticello. The federal government has been slow to open a promised waste dump in Nevada, leaving questions over spent fuel. Meanwhile, some legislators are pushing to lift a moratorium that bars regulators from authorizing new nuclear plants as a way to feed the power grid. Source: <http://www.wqow.com/Global/story.asp?S=11874153>

Brazilian police discover 450 kg of contraband uranium ore. Police in the north Brazilian state of Amapa have unearthed a cache with 450 kg of enriched uranium ore. The operation to seize radioactive material was a result of four-month work by investigators, who found a bag of pitchblende on Friday in a remote area of tropical rainforest. Pitchblende, or uraninite, is an extremely radioactive mineral used as a major component for the production of fuel for nuclear power plants and nuclear arms. An investigation is underway. Brazil's nuclear capabilities are considered the most advanced in Latin America. The country runs its sole nuclear power plant, Angra, with two reactors, and a third is under construction. Source: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20100123/157658954.html>

NATIONAL

NationalCreditReport.com issues consumer advisory to warn consumers about credit report scams originating from Craigslist. NationalCreditReport.com issued a consumer advisory Thursday warning

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consumers of credit report scams. Consumers may become victims of such scams on Craigslist and other online classified listing sites as a result of responding to what they believe is a legitimate rental property or job posting. The scams appear on Craigslist and other classified websites offering an apartment for rent or a job posting and consumers respond to the listings via email. Once the consumer's inquiry is received, the consumer then becomes engaged in what they believe is legitimate communication between a potential employer or property manager. The alleged employer or property manager will include a link to a free credit report website, asking the consumer to go to the site to get their free report. The consumer is then instructed to email their credit report and/or credit score to the potential employer or property manager so they can "verify their employment or housing history" and proceed with the job or apartment application process.

NationalCreditReport.com does not authorize or condone this type activity and warns all consumers not to share their credit report or credit score with anyone they do not know, as this is an open invitation for credit fraud and identity theft. Sites such as Craigslist.com have also recognized credit report scams and posted their own warnings such as this one to guide the public.

www.craigslist.org/about/scams. Source: <http://www.pr-inside.com/nationalcreditreport-com-issues-consumer-r1692226.htm>

INTERNATIONAL

At least 36 dead as car bombs rock Baghdad hotels. Three large car bombs rocked well-known Baghdad hotels on Monday, killing at least 36 people and ending a 1-1/2-month lull in coordinated assaults on the Iraqi capital as the country heads into a March election. Police said at least 71 people were wounded in the separate suicide car bombings, which went off within minutes of one another. Some of the casualties were police. Health ministry data showed a lower figure for the death toll. The first blast occurred near an entrance of the Ishtar Sheraton hotel, a Baghdad landmark on the eastern side of the Tigris River. The shock wave blew open doors, shattered windows, and sent thick dust swirling into the Reuters offices nearby. Towering concrete blast walls protecting the hotel along the Abu Nawas riverside boulevard fell like dominoes. The blast took place across from a park frequented by families and picnickers. The building has not been a regular hotel for years and largely houses company offices and some media organizations, but some adventurous international tour groups began using it last year. Police said another blast went off just outside the al-Hamra hotel, which has been a hub for many Western journalists since 2003. One Western reporter said the hotel had sustained heavy damage. The Washington Post said three of its Iraqi employees were wounded. The blast at the Hamra, like that at the Sheraton, ripped a giant crater in the pavement. A final bomb appeared to have blown up near the Babylon hotel, which is used by Iraqi travelers and sometimes for government meetings. A Baghdad security spokesman put the death toll at seven killed with 51 wounded, citing health ministry data. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/25/AR2010012500974.html>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

PD: Man tries to rob Surprise bank using fake explosives. Officials say a man was arrested on January 28 after it was discovered he tried to rob a Surprise bank using a fake explosive device. A Surprise police department spokesperson said when officers first encountered the suspect, he told police he had been robbed and officers noticed cuts on the man's arms. After the suspect was

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escorted to the hospital, police discovered a suspicious device in his possession. The spokesman said the Glendale police department bomb squad was called in to investigate the device. Crews were able to determine the device was not real, but a simulated explosive. As police continued to investigate the incident it was discovered he had earlier in the day entered a Chase Bank near Cotton Lane and Bell Road with the device, and left without making any transaction. The spokesman said police also found the suspect with a handwritten note stating that he had an explosive device. Source:

<http://www.abc15.com/content/news/westvalley/surprise/story/PD-Man-tries-to-rob-Surprise-bank-using-fake/NOK2hNTJvU2MeFo6cX127A.csp>

Credit card scam. There are reports of credit card scam in the Wausau, Wisconsin, area. Several people have received phone calls from people claiming to be from their bank, saying their credit card has been deactivated because of suspected fraud. The person asks for the card number and PIN over the telephone to fix the problem. Co-Vantage Credit Union says several of their members have received similar calls. Banks and credit card companies do not ask for PIN numbers over the phone. People who receive these calls should hang up and call police and their financial institution. Source:

<http://new.wsau.com/news/articles/2010/jan/28/credit-card-scam/>

Phony bomb bank robberies. Two recent bank robberies have taken advantage of terrorism fears in northeast Queens, and police want to defuse the situation. On January 22 a “black male, 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing approximately 200 pounds,” according to the NYPD, entered the Queens County Savings Bank at 247-53 Jamaica Avenue in Bellerose shortly before 9 a.m. Police say the man, dressed in black shoes and a black jacket, told bank employees he wanted to open an account. Once he had the manager’s attention, cops say he said he had a bomb in his bag, and warned them “Don’t notify anyone.” He fled the bank with an undisclosed amount of cash, heading westbound on Jamaica Avenue. Police sources told The Queens Courier that on January 25, an unidentified black male, between 6 feet and 6 feet 2 inches tall, weighing “about 180 pounds,” entered the Queens County Savings Bank at 224-04 Union Turnpike in Hollis Hills shortly before noon on. The man, who was wearing blue pants, a blue trench coat and black sneakers, also produced what appeared to be a bomb — but also turned out to be four traffic flares taped together with a common electronic accessory, police sources said. The thief was last seen headed south on Springfield Boulevard, with approximately \$8,300 in cash, according to police sources. Source:

<http://www.queenscourier.com/articles/2010/01/26/news/regional/northeast/doc4b5f7a16df89d736102907.txt>

3D secure online payment system not secure, researchers say. A widely deployed system intended to reduce on-line payment card fraud is fraught with security problems, according to University of Cambridge researchers. The system is called 3-D Secure (3DS) but known better under the names Verified by Visa and MasterCard SecureCode. Implemented and paid for by e-commerce vendors, the systems require a person to enter a password or portions of a password to complete an on-line purchase. As a reward for investing in the systems, merchants are less liable for fraudulent transactions and are stuck with fewer chargebacks. But banks such as the Royal Bank of Scotland are now holding consumers to a higher level of liability if fraudulent transactions occur using either system, said a security researcher at the University of Cambridge. That is despite what the researcher and a security engineering professor contend are several flaws with 3DS. One of their main points is how 3DS is integrated into Web sites during a transaction. E-Commerce Web sites display 3DS in an iframe, which is a window that brings content from one Web site into another. The e-commerce Web

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site connects directly to a bank, which solicits a person's password in the iframe. If the password is right, the transaction is complete. But the researchers argue that since there's no URL displayed with the iframe, it's difficult to tell whether it's genuine or not. 3DS also allows people to set their password immediately as they enroll in the system, a process called "activation during shopping" (ADS). The ADS enrollment will ask for some other piece of information, such as a birth date, in order to confirm the setting of the password. That's a security issue since birth dates are easily obtainable, the researchers argue. Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/187849/3d_secure_online_payment_system_not_secure_researchers_say.html

Improvements needed in National Flood Insurance program's financial controls and oversight. Due to the federal government's role as guarantor, floods impose an enormous potential financial burden on the federal government. Consequently, decision makers at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Congress need accurate and timely financial information to assess the effectiveness of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This report assesses whether controls in place during the 2005 to 2007 time frame were effective in providing accountability and reliable financial reporting for NFIP transactions; whether effective oversight structures were in place during this time frame to monitor NFIP financial activity; and whether recent and planned actions to improve controls are likely to address identified financial control weaknesses. Weaknesses in internal controls impaired FEMA's ability to maintain effective transaction-level accountability. These weaknesses limited FEMA's ability to assure accurate NFIP financial data during the 3-year period from fiscal year 2005 through 2007, which included the financial activity related to the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. Second, incomplete BSA-level premium data files (lacking key information such as insureds' names and addresses) prevented an assessment of the reliability of reported NFIP premium amounts. Lastly, FEMA's financial reporting process uses summary data that is overly reliant on error-prone manual data entry. GAO made seven recommendations to FEMA to improve NFIP financial management controls and oversight. They include modifying the financial reporting process to reduce the risk of errors and improving procedures to strengthen oversight. Source: <http://www.gao.gov/htext/d1066.html>

Five banks closed on Jan. 22. Five banks were closed by state and federal regulators on January 22. The largest of the failed institutions was Charter Bank, a \$1.2 billion bank based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. These latest closings now raise to 10 the total number of failed institutions so far in 2010. The banks closed were Premier American Bank in Miami, Florida, Bank of Leeton in Leeton, Missouri, Charter Bank in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Evergreen Bank in Seattle, Washington, and Columbia River Bank in The Dallas, Oregon. The FDIC estimates that the total cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) for the five bank failures will be \$531.7 million. Source:

http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2110

No bomb found at Edmond bank after arrest. A man who went into an Oklahoma Fidelity Bank branch in Edmond this morning was bluffing when he used what he called a "detonator" to rob the bank, police said. A 52-year-old transient from Texas was arrested within 15 minutes of the 9:30 a.m. robbery near Second Street and Bryant Avenue, a Edmond police spokeswoman said. His name has not been released. Based on the man's threat, Edmond police evacuated the bank and swept the building for any suspicious devices. Shortly after 11 a.m., a bomb technician wearing heavy armor exited the building and flashed a thumbs-up gesture, which gave the-go ahead for detectives and FBI

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agents to go in and conduct their investigation. The spokeswoman said she did not know what the device actually was that was used to rob the bank, but she said bank employees described it as some sort of cylinder wrapped in aluminum foil and then wrapped in a napkin. Source:

http://www.newsok.com/no-bomb-found-at-edmond-bank-after-arrest/article/3433939?custom_click=headlines_widget

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

Official: Factory fire was arson. A factory fire that caused \$32,000 in damage has been ruled arson, according to the Hickory Police Department. The fire at Future Foam in 15th street was reported just before 1 a.m. on January 27. When firefighters arrived, they went inside the factory and saw heavy black smoke and flames, said a member of the Hickory Fire Department. The fire started in the southeast corner of the building. The flames activated the sprinkler system and the spray kept the flames from spreading much beyond the point of the fire's origin. "There were about nine workers in the building when it happened," said a member of the Hickory Police Department. There were no injuries reported. Two fire engines and a ladder company responded to the fire. Forty large foam blocks valued at about \$800 each were damaged in the fire. Ten were destroyed and the ceiling and lighting system were damaged. Fire investigators are continuing to study the fire's origin. Source:

<http://www2.hickoryrecord.com/content/2010/jan/28/official-factory-fire-was-arson/news/>

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Grenade found at Naples condo. A bomb squad was called to an upscale Naples, Florida condominium where a World War II grenade was found. Police say the condo's owner recently died, and a family member cleaning out the unit Wednesday morning found the grenade. The explosive device was brought outside the building, and none of the residents needed to be evacuated. The Collier County Sheriff's Office bomb squad removed the grenade from the scene. Source:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/florida/AP/story/1450308.html>

Homemade explosive device destroys forklift at Vineland Walmart. Police seek the public's help to identify whoever used a homemade explosive to destroy a forklift at Walmart Supercenter in Vineland, New Jersey. City police and firefighters responded to the West Landis Avenue store at 12:51 a.m. Sunday. The forklift was outside at the rear of the building, and firefighters extinguished the blaze. Police reported Monday a "homemade Molotov cocktail" was placed on the forklift's propane tank and ignited. The explosion destroyed the forklift, which was valued at \$25,000. The building was not damaged and no injuries were reported, police said. A Walmart manager declined to comment Monday. Crime Stoppers of Vineland is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the identity and apprehension of whoever was involved in the arson. Source:

<http://www.app.com/article/20100126/NEWS03/100126006/Homemade-explosive-device-destroys-forklift-at-Vineland-Walmart>

Police investigate incendiary device near Mendenhall Glacier. The Juneau Police Department Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team (EOD) investigated an incendiary device Monday morning at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. The police received a call at about 9:30 a.m. Monday that a Forest Service employee found a suspicious device on the property. The police determined it was three aerosol cans taped together with a marine flare used as a fuse to ignite the cans. The flare was not

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burning when the EOD officers arrived and the cans were determined to be flammable but not hazardous. The device was brought back to the police station and processed for any evidence that it may contain. Source: http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/012610/reg_554969002.shtml

Clovis police probe teen link to explosives. Clovis police are asking residents near Keats and Magnolia avenues to watch for suspicious activity related to reports of teenagers using homemade explosives. A Clovis police spokeswoman said residents in the area have reported hearing large firecracker-like explosions coming from a nearby park. On Sunday about 6 p.m., police responded to a report of three high school-age boys exploding homemade bombs. When police arrived they found pieces of two plastic bottles that had been exploded, but no suspects. And Tuesday, the Clovis Fire Department discovered three plastic "bottle bomb" devices at the same park. Two of them had exploded; the third was intact but inert. The police spokeswoman said bleach may be one of the ingredients used in the devices. She warns that the homemade devices can be just as dangerous as illegal fireworks. Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/updates/story/1797810.html>

Bomb scare evacuates Wasco shopping center. A device resembling a bomb forced an entire Wasco, California, shopping center to be evacuated Sunday night. Kern County Sheriff's Office got a call just before 4:00pm of a suspicious device inside a newspaper dispenser at the Save Mart shopping center on Highway 46. When deputies arrived, they found the device inside and say it had batteries and blinking LED lights. To be keep the public safe, deputies evacuated everyone from the shopping center and called in the bomb squad. The bomb squad removed the device from the newsstand and determined that it was not explosive. Source: <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/82576727.html>

Amherst hotel shooting keeps police busy. Amherst Police are trying to find the person who shot three people early Saturday morning outside the Marriott Residence Inn on Maple Road. A 17-year-old female from Buffalo was shot in the lower abdomen and taken to ECMC. She is expected to make a full recovery. Two other young people were grazed by a bullet, but they did not require medical attention at a hospital, according to the Amherst Police Detective Captain. There are conflicting reports on where the shooting took place. "As far as our investigation has determined at this point, it looks like the shooting all occurred outside the room," said the captain. Police say the shooting was a result of a fight that escalated between two groups of girls. There were as many as 30 people inside a hotel room for a party when another group of females showed up, according to the Assistant Chief of the Amherst Police Department. Several local police agencies were called in to form a perimeter around the parking lot because at the time officers thought they were dealing with an active shooter situation. Several people locked themselves in the hotel room and refused to come out. The Emergency Response Team was activated to search for suspects and clear the hotel room. Source: <http://www.wgrz.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=73830&catid=37>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Federal funds aim to clean up nuclear wasteland. The federal government has set aside nearly \$2 billion in stimulus funds to clean up Washington State's decommissioned Hanford nuclear site, once the center of the country's Cold War plutonium production. That is more stimulus funding that some entire states have received, which has triggered a debate as to whether the money is being properly spent. The facility sprawls across approximately 600 square miles of south-central Washington.

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Decades of improper radioactive waste disposal earned Hanford the notorious distinction of being most contaminated nuclear site in the Western Hemisphere. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/01/29/hanford.cleanup/>

US House leaders ask for investigation into hackings. Two lawmakers criticized the Web services company that may have enabled the hacking of almost 50 government Web sites on January 27. In a letter, the House speaker, a California Democrat, and a U.S. representative who is an Ohio Republican, asked the U.S. House of Representatives' Chief Administration Officer to immediately assess how hackers managed to deface the Web sites of nearly 50 house members and committees. The attack seemed to predominantly target Democrats and occurred around the same time that the U.S. President gave his first State of the Union address. The hackers removed the regular content on the sites, replacing it with rude comments toward the president. Initial reports indicate that the security shortfall may have stemmed from a vendor that offers hosting and support services. "While many Members have expressed satisfaction with the vendor in question, this is the second time in a year websites hosted and supported by this vendor have been compromised," according to the letter. Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/012910-us-house-leaders-ask-for.html?hpg1=bn>

Vandals cut fiber optic cables to Selah. The Yakima County sheriff's office says vandals cut fiber optic cables that carry phone, TV and Internet service to Selah, Washington. The damage was reported early on January 27 by Charter Communications. Repair crews found two cables cut at the railroad trestle that crosses the Naches River between Yakima and Selah. Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2010903931_apwafiberopticvandals.html

Crystal Mall evacuated for unknown substance. State officials are trying to identify the substance that led to the evacuation of Crystal Mall in Waterford, Connecticut on Monday afternoon. Assistant chief of the Cohanzie Fire Company said they were called out at 3:17 p.m. to a report of an unknown hazardous material after a person in the mall detected the odor of gasoline. He said an entry crew located a substance that it could not identify, and backed out before calling hazardous materials crews from the Groton Navy Base and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. The substance was taken to a DEP facility for analysis. No one was hurt.

Source: <http://www.norwichbulletin.com/newsnow/x1090820202/Crystal-Mall-evacuated-for-unknown-substance>

Copper theft shuts down AT&T service in Dallas. AT&T's landline voice customers in Dallas, Texas were without phone service on January 25 when thieves made off with 200 feet of copper cabling. Since the cable theft was done in the very early morning, AT&T said only about 20 customers reported they were without service in the afternoon of January 25, meaning that the outage was not widespread. Stealing these particular copper cables, which AT&T estimates could fetch no more than \$2000 on the scrap metal market, came at a major risk because they are high tension and are located right next to utility electric lines. There has been no shortage of copper thieves being electrocuted when they mistakenly cut into an adjacent utility electric wire. After a slight lull, a jump in copper prices has spurred on a new wave of copper theft. Source:

<http://www.fiercetelecom.com/story/copper-theft-shuts-down-t-service-dallas/2010-01-26>

Damaged line cuts phone, internet service in parts of Duluth, Lake and Cook counties. A steam pipe that broke in a manhole in Duluth is believed to be the cause of damage to a fiber-optic line that has

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cut phone and Internet service to thousands in Northeastern Minnesota. Qwest Communications has determined that the damage occurred in Duluth north of Qwest's downtown location. "A steam pipe burst and the hot steam hit one of our fiber lines and melted it," said a spokeswoman for Qwest. "We now have people there that are working trying to fix it as soon as we can." Damage to the fiber-optic line took place just before 11 a.m. and is affecting phone coverage for Qwest customers in Two Harbors, Grand Marais, Silver Bay, and Finland, she said. As repairs were being made, service also was disrupted in Duluth's Lakeside neighborhood and a few other parts of town. Frontier Communications, which runs some of its traffic through the Qwest fiber-optic line, reported that about 4,000 of its customers in the same coverage areas also have been affected. Cell phone service is affected along Highway 61 between Two Harbors and Grand Marais, as well. Customers should be able to dial locally but will have trouble making toll or emergency calls, the spokesman said. Source: http://www.twoharborsmn.com/event/article/id/158591/group/News/publisher_ID/36/

National weather service transmitters down. The National Weather Service in Sioux Falls say they have at least two weather transmitters or towers down because of the storm. One problem is with the tower which serves South Central South Dakota. The other is in the Huron area in Wessington. The thick fog froze to the metal and then wind did the rest of the damage that will cut off information to people who need it. "The primary impact is they won't be receiving weather info and that's a problem. They cover 40-50 miles it is unclear if it is just a tower or a just a transmitter," said a spokesman for the National Weather Service. Officials say they will try to get to the issues on January 23 to see how much damage has been done. Source: <http://www.ksfy.com/news/local/82444377.html>

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE SECTOR

Offshore drilling could hurt military operations in Florida, group says. In January, a North Dakota Senator joined a pro-drilling group, Securing America's Future Energy, to release a report downplaying the risk offshore drilling would pose to Eglin Air Force Base training exercises and other military operations in Gulf of Mexico. An Environment Florida Advocate shot back a response: "When it comes to offshore drilling's impact on Gulf military operations, one thing is certain: We will not make America more secure by risking our ability to train our armed forces in the Gulf in order to obtain less than six months of oil over a 25-year period." At the Florida House Military Affairs and Local Policy Committee hearing on January 13, the Commander of Eglin Air Force Base Ranges testified that drones and missiles plummeting from the sky during training exercises could gravely damage rigs, pipelines, and other infrastructure. Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-29137-Tallahassee-Environmental-News-Examiner~y2010m1d28-Offshore-drilling-could-hurt-military-operations-in-Florida-group-says>

Flaw to delay missile test 7 months. A hardware problem on a Minuteman 3 missile at Vandenberg Air Force Base led to a seven-month delay for a test that now will not occur before mid-June, officials said. Confirmation of the long delay comes as engineers continue to analyze the problem and suggest repairs. Vandenberg officials announced two days before the planned November 18 launch that the missile test's postponement would "allow for the completion of ground testing prior to launching." However, in response to questions submitted this month, Air Force officials eventually confirmed that some of sort of problem with the weapon led to the postponement. "All that can be said at this time is that the problem was on-board the missile, and the problem is being actively analyzed," officials

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said in a written statement. "Once the analysis is complete more information may be available. The analysis will focus on all aspects of the missile sub-systems and potentially include suggestions for improvements in hardware and software. The results of the analysis may well require continued protection in accordance with established classification procedures." The Minuteman missile's problem was discovered after the weapon was "built up" for launch from Vandenberg, during routine pre-launch system tests. Vandenberg regularly tests Minuteman 3 missiles to gather data on the weapon system's accuracy and reliability. Some 450 Minuteman 3 missiles sit on alert in and around North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, but no assessment has been made about whether the problem affects the entire arsenal. "The Minuteman ICBM is a proven asset with high reliability; our testing serves to ensure that the high reliability of the weapon system is maintained," Air Force officials said. Source: http://www.lompocrecord.com/news/local/military/article_0ba64a2e-08b5-11df-85b5-001cc4c002e0.html

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Toyota extends massive safety recall to Europe; Suspension of production could cost \$550M a month. Toyota is extending to Europe the recall of millions of its most popular cars due to dangerous accelerator pedals, a further blow to the reputation of the world's largest car maker. Toyota said it had not yet determined how many vehicles in Europe would be recalled, or when, but media and analysts have said 2 million cars may be affected on top of some 6 million now recalled in North America. The recall and a related sales and production halt in North America of eight models including its best-selling Camry have damaged Toyota's once unshakeable record for safety and reliability. It comes as its grapples with a patchy recovery from a vicious global downturn in the industry and growing competition. "Toyota's got the resources to bounce back from this, but this is the biggest crisis that they have ever faced, and Ford and Hyundai and others are coming on strong," said an auto dealer consultant in Atlanta. A Toyota Europe spokeswoman said the models and exact number of potentially affected vehicles was under investigation but there was no need to stop production. Toyota late on Wednesday also offered to replace floor mats or pedals on another 1.1 million U.S. vehicles if customers wanted. With that voluntary measure, Toyota would be dealing with nearly 6 million U.S. vehicles for accelerator-related problems across its lineup, a sweeping safety action that has emboldened its rivals. Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/money/2010/01/28/2010-01-28_toyota_extends_massive_safety_recall_to_europe_suspension_of_production_could_co.html

Recall: Thermador built-in ovens pose a fire hazard. Announced by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), BSH Home Appliances Corp. have voluntarily recalled Thermador built-in ovens after discovering a fire hazard. The recall was announced on Thursday, January 21, 2010. BSH Home Appliances Corp. has recalled nearly 37,000 more built-in ovens after they previously recalled 42,000 in June 2007. The ovens reportedly can have gaps in the insulation, which can cause overheating when used in the self-cleaning model, posing a fire hazard. There have been three reports of incidents, in which two resulted in fires that damaged nearby cabinetry. No injuries have been reported. The recall involves Thermador brand built-in double ovens with model numbers C272B, C302B, SEC272, SEC302, SECD272, and SECD302 and serial numbers between FD8403 through FD8701, which can be found on the underside of the control panel. The recalled products were sold at appliance and specialty stores across the country from June 2004 through July 2007 for between \$3,000 and \$4,400. Consumers are advised to discontinue use of the self-cleaning mode immediately,

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and contact BSH Home Appliances Corp. to schedule an inspection and free repair, if necessary. For additional information, consumers are instructed to contact Thermador. Source:

http://www.justiceneWSflash.com/2010/01/26/recall-thermador-builtin-ovens-pose-fire-hazard_201001263112.html

No sale: Toyota halts sales of eight models, production affected as well. Toyota announced Tuesday that it is suspending sales of eight models that are involved in the recall for having accelerator pedals that stick. Initially Toyota had maintained that improperly installed floor mats were to blame, but as time has continued on, the company has recently admitted that "Certain accelerator pedal mechanisms may, in rare instances, mechanically stick in a partially depressed position or return slowly to the idle position." One driver of a Toyota Avalon was able to use information circulated by the media, moving the car's shifter to and from neutral, to limp his malfunctioning car to a dealership while it was still experiencing the acceleration issue. The service manager was able to verify that the floor mat was not obstructing the accelerator. Toyota now hopes to show that it is taking ownership of the issue and is acting in the best interest of its customers. Models impacted by the sales freeze include the following: 2009-2010 RAV4, 2009-2010 Corolla, 2009-2010 Matrix, 2005-2010 Avalon, 2007-2010 Camry, 2010 Highlander, 2007-2010 Tundra, and 2008-2010 Sequoia. In addition to the sales freeze, production at certain Toyota facilities will pause beginning the week of February 1. Facilities in question include: Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Canada (Corolla, Matrix, and RAV4), Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana (Sequoia and Highlander), Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky – Line 1 (Camry and Avalon), Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. (Camry), Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas (Tundra). At this point, Toyota is not indicating how long the sales and production suspension will last. Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-10697-California-Autos-Examiner~y2010m1d26-No-sale--Toyota-halts-sales-of-eight-models-production-affected-as-well>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Suspicious package addressed to President Bush found at Morena police substation. A suspicious package addressed to the former President discovered at a police substation Wednesday was determined to not contain explosives, San Diego police said. The package was found at about 5:30 p.m. at the front door of the Western Division substation at 5215 Gaines Street. The building was evacuated and traffic and trolley service shut down in the area. The Secret Service was also notified due to the reference to the former President. A bomb squad technician determined the package was not dangerous. It was not known what was inside the package. Source:

<http://www.760kfmb.com/Global/story.asp?S=11891760>

Sheriff's office evacuated. Dozens of emergency vehicles were called to the Charlotte County, Florida; Sheriff's office- after half of the building was engulfed in a strange chemical smelling odor. In protective gear, Hazmat searched the building and tested the air for toxins. Dispatchers were quickly re-routed to cover incoming emergency calls. "Half an hour later the rest of the dispatchers were manning the backup dispatch center. Shortly after, the building was cleared," the police chief said. At this time the cause of the odor is unknown. Source:

<http://www.winknews.com/news/local/82566687.html>

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ENERGY

Hospital scanner could curb nuclear waste threat. A team of scientists from the Universities of Manchester and Leeds have joined forces with experts in nuclear medicine at Manchester Royal Infirmary, using medical gamma-ray cameras to track radioactive isotopes in soil samples from a US civil nuclear site. This is the first time the technique, which is used in hospitals for heart, bone and kidney scanning, has been used to study the environmental behaviour of nuclear waste – and its success could help scientists find new ways of using bacteria to control the spread of radioactivity. Radioactive isotopes of the element technetium (Tc) are produced in bulk by nuclear facilities, while a specific isotope of Tc with a very short life is routinely used as a medical tracer in human bodies. Nuclear fission of Uranium has released tonnes of Tc from nuclear facilities over the past decades, with the element remaining radioactive for thousands of years. But although the short lived medical isotope is chemically indistinguishable from that in long lived waste, it can be used safely in tests. Source: <http://www.biosciencetechnology.com/News/Feeds/2010/01/sections-international-news-hospital-scanner-could-curb-nuclear-waste-threat/>

Bomb squad called to St. Marys. In St. Mary's, Ohio, police and fire crews responded to a suspicious package near a propane tank on January 28 around 3 p.m. The package was located near a propane tank at the Certified Oil Station on the 1100 block of Jackson Street. Allen County Bomb Squad was called to the scene and used a high pressure of water to open the package, police said. Once opened they found electronic scales, not a bomb, police said. Police and fire crews did evacuate homes in the area for a short while just for precaution. No one was injured. Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/22371114/detail.html>

Hangman's noose found at BP plant in Texas City. BP officials say a hangman's noose was found at one of their Texas City refinery units, and they are offering a \$10,000 reward to anyone who identifies the person responsible for it. The noose was discovered last month at a resid hydrotreating unit, which refines crude oil into fuel, the refinery's manager wrote in a memo sent to employees on January 22. The manager continued to write that hangman nooses are symbols of hatred and violence. BP officials are now investigating the incident, he wrote. The person behind the noose will be banned from the building, or terminated if the person is an employee of the company, he wrote. Source: <http://www.myfoxhouston.com/dpp/news/local/100126-bp-hangmans-noose>

2 accused of cutting power lines. Two West Virginia men arrested Friday in Lowell for cutting power lines in order to steal copper wiring may have done something similar in Meigs County recently, said a Washington County Sheriff. One man, 37, and another man, 29, both of Chapmanville, West Virginia, were arrested on January 22 and charged with felony counts of theft, possession of criminal tools and disrupting public service. They remained in jail on January 25. The men were allegedly cutting power lines along Ohio 60 in the early morning hours on January 22 and were found covered in mud, in possession of tree trimmers and with differing stories about why they were in Lowell, according to deputies. "They were stealing copper," said the sheriff. "They had purchased a couple long-limb tree trimmers and had put tape and things around them to ward off electric shocks as they cut the lines." He said the two are suspects in another recent case. "We knew at least 4,000 feet of wire was taken in Meigs County," he said. "We believe it's attributable to the same people." An AEP spokesman said the company will have to pay about \$20,000 to replace the lines that were cut. Power was out from 2:32 a.m. on January 22 until 5:41 a.m. for 72 customers, he said. "We put a

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temporary fix in place, but we'll have to rebuild," the spokesman said. He said a recent incident in Pomeroy, in Meigs County, also involved AEP lines. Source:

<http://www.mariettatimes.com/page/content.detail/id/519045.html>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Deadly fish virus now found in all Great Lakes. A deadly fish virus that was first discovered in the Northeast in 2005 has been found for the first time in fish from Lake Superior, report Cornell researchers. That means that the virus has now been documented in all of the Great Lakes. The viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV), which causes fatal anemia and hemorrhaging in many fish species, but poses no threat to humans, said a professor of aquatic animal medicine at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. The virus, which has been identified in 28 freshwater fish species in the Great Lakes watershed, has reached epidemic proportions in the Great Lakes and threatens New York's sport-fishing industry as it estimated to contribute some \$1.4 billion annually to New York's economy. "People come from all over the eastern United States to fish the Great Lakes," the professor said. "On a worldwide basis, VHSV is considered one of the most serious pathogens of fish, because it kills so many fish, is not treatable and infects a broad range of fish species." Source:

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Jan10/FishVirusEpidemic.html>

Medfly quarantine hurts at open markets. Quarantines that blanket 227 square miles of inland northern San Diego County have hit hard small growers who sell seasonal produce at open-air markets. Weeks of government-required pesticide treatment can extend past harvest time, making a crop unsalable. Vendors who grow produce attractive to Medflies outside the quarantine boundary must cover their product before they sell at farmers markets within the boundary. The San Diego County Farm Bureau lists 19 farmers markets in North County, and five of them are within the quarantine boundary. It is not just a local problem. Japan and China will not import the produce if Medfly larvae are detected in any shipped quantities. Federal inspectors from other states and countries have come to San Diego to ensure compliance. Source:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/jan/29/medfly-quarantine-hurts-open-markets/>

New Jersey firm recalls instant noodle products imported from an unapproved source. Well Luck Co., Inc., a Jersey City, New Jersey establishment is recalling approximately 50,000 pounds of instant noodle products that were ineligible for import to the U.S., the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced. Well Luck Co., Inc., is recalling the instant noodle products because they do not meet product inspection or exemption requirements for poultry, beef, and pork. The foreign inspection system of the country where the beef, poultry, and pork ingredients originated, China, has not been deemed to be equivalent as required by federal regulations. The problem was discovered after FSIS identified the products in the marketplace. The instant noodle products were distributed to retail establishments nationwide. FSIS has received no reports of illness as a result of consuming these products. Source:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_007_2010_Release/index.asp

Survey: Honeybee colony collapse losses declining. Fewer beekeepers are reporting evidence of a mysterious ailment that had been decimating the U.S. honeybee population. But losses due to colony collapse disorder remain high enough to keep beekeepers on edge, and longtime stresses on bees

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such as starvation and poor weather add to the burden. A survey of beekeepers for the January issue of the Journal of Apicultural Research found that the percentage of operations reporting having lost colonies but without dead bees in the hives — a symptom of colony collapse disorder, or CCD — decreased to 26 percent last winter, compared to 38 percent the previous season and 36 percent the season before that. Also, the percentage of colonies that died that displayed the CCD symptom was 36 percent last winter, down from 60 percent three winters ago, the survey found. The earliest reports of CCD date to 2004, and scientists still are trying to find a cause. Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/27/us/AP-US-Farm-Scene-Disappearing-Bees.html? r=2>

Pepper tests positive, FSIS names retailers. The black pepper used to coat the salami products on the 1.24 million pound recall list put out by Rhode Island's Daniele Inc. have now tested positive for Salmonella, the company says. The specialty meat company declines to say who supplies its pepper. The recalled meat is associated with an outbreak involving at least 189 victims of multiple strains of Salmonella in 40 states. The January 23 recall is now spreading around the world. Hong Kong's Center for Food Safety on January 26 ordered stores to stop selling Daniele brand Italian sausage products containing black pepper. It warned consumers to stop eating the ready-to-eat sausage products. Canada already took similar action and other countries are sure to follow. Source:

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/01/pepper-tests-positive-fsis-names-retailers/>

Rhode Island firm recalls Italian Sausage products due to possible salmonella contamination.

Daniele International Inc., an establishment with operations in Pascoag and Mapleville, Rhode Island, is recalling approximately 1,240,000 pounds of ready-to-eat (RTE) varieties of Italian sausage products, including salami/salame, in commerce and potentially available to customers in retail locations in numerous states because they may be contaminated with Salmonella, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced. FSIS became aware of the problem during the course of an ongoing investigation of a multi-state outbreak of Salmonella serotype Montevideo illnesses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), FSIS, state health and agriculture departments, and Daniele International are cooperating in this investigation. During the course of that investigation, a sample of product found in commerce was tested on behalf of a participating state department of health and found to contain Salmonella, which FSIS has a zero tolerance for in RTE products. The product tested was similar to products bought by customers who later became sick in the Montevideo investigation, but currently there is not a direct link. The Salmonella strain in the tested product does not appear to be the Montevideo strain of interest and further testing of the sample is ongoing at a state health partner laboratory. FSIS is continuing to work with the CDC, affected state public health partners, and the company on the investigation and will update the public on the progress of this investigation as information becomes available. Source:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_006_2010_Release/index.asp

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

Brooklyn Federal Courthouse briefly evacuated for suspicious package. The Brooklyn Federal Courthouse was briefly evacuated Thursday after a suspicious package was discovered, authorities said. Hundreds of employees, lawyers and judges were ordered to leave the downtown Brooklyn

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building about 12:10 p.m. The scare started when a woman found the backpack lying outside the courthouse, picked it up and carried it inside to security. An X-ray machine showed the bag appeared wires. A dog trained to sniff explosives twice reacted positively to the backpack, sources said. The NYPD bomb squad and emergency service unit was called. The backpack was determined not to be a danger after about an hour. The NYPD chief of department said the backpack seemed to belong to a computer repairman and contained wires and gauges. The police official said investigators believed the backpack was left inadvertently. Source:

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/01/28/2010-01-28_brooklyn_federal_courthouse_evacuated_for_suspicious_package.html

Scare, threat, wind force evacuations at EHT High School. A gun scare, bomb threats and power outages that are unrelated have all plagued Egg Harbor Township High School in the last week and are causing school officials to review their emergency procedures. There was an unfounded gun scare January 20, a bomb threat made by a student January 21 and students went home at 12:30 January 25 after a power outage. "We review even when we have standard drills," said the school superintendent. On Wednesday, January 27 the superintendent was already scheduled to meet with all district administrators. That meeting will also include a law enforcement official with the Egg Harbor Township Police Department to discuss policing issues and lessons that have been learned from the incidents at the high school. Source: <http://www.shorenewstoday.com/news.php?id=6981>

2 teens in custody after school bomb scare. Two 15-year-old boys suspected in a four-hour bomb scare at a Tierrasanta middle school are in custody Tuesday, police said. The teens were caught on surveillance video attaching a suspicious looking device to a fence at Farb Middle School Tuesday afternoon, a San Diego police officer said. Someone called 911 to report the roughly foot-long cylinder with protruding wires about 4 p.m., and arriving officers alerted the San Diego Fire- Rescue Department's Metro Arson Strike Team. The school was placed on lockdown and later evacuated, along with the Murphy Canyon Recreation Center, while experts examined the device, which turned out to be a fire extinguisher for putting out kitchen fires in restaurants. The boys said they found it in a nearby canyon. Police tracked down the teens using surveillance video and booked them into Juvenile Hall on suspicion of possessing a hoax device. Their names were withheld because they are minors. Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/22352926/detail.html>

Hazmat situation at Fresno federal courthouse. A hazmat situation has been reported at the Fresno Federal Courthouse. Fresno City Fire crews are on the scene, where they are investigating a suspicious package found at the building. The package contained a small amount of a white substance. No evacuations have been made as of noon. The courthouse is located at Tulare and P Streets in Downtown Fresno. Source: <http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=11876974>

High school evacuated after bomb threat. The Central High School East Campus had to be evacuated Monday morning after a report of a bomb on campus. The threat was called in over the weekend, but it kept kids out of class for about 45 minutes on Monday morning. When school officials received the message, they searched the school and found a suspicious package. The Fresno Police Department's bomb squad was called in to check the package. The package was determined to be non-threatening. All students are safe and back in class. The Fresno Police Department is still investigating the source of the voice-mail message. Source:

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=7236850>

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Grenade launcher, weapons cache, military map found in NJ motel room after man's arrest.

Authorities in central New Jersey have seized a cache of weapons and ammunition including rifles, a grenade launcher, and a night vision scope from the motel room of a Virginia man. The Somerset County prosecutor says the suspect, a 43-year-old Navy veteran from Reston, Virginia, also had maps of a U.S. military facility and a town in another state. He was arrested in Branchburg, New Jersey early Monday by officers responding to a report of a suspicious person. The FBI says the suspect has no known terrorism links. The Somerset County prosecutor says the suspect was wearing a bulletproof vest and carrying a semiautomatic Bushmaster rifle under his jacket when he was arrested. The suspect was being held at the Somerset County Jail on charges including unlawful possession of weapons. The suspect had been staying at the Red Mill Inn in Branchburg. Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-nj-weapons-arrest,0,1633106.story>

4 men accused of phone plot make court appearance. Three of four men charged with infiltrating the New Orleans office of a Democratic U.S. Senator returned to court today for private appointments in the pretrial services department. Three of the suspects carried suitcases and declined comment. Federal authorities said 2 of the men posed as telephone workers wearing hard hats, tool belts and fluorescent vests when they walked into the senator's office inside a federal building in New Orleans on Monday. The other two are accused of helping to organize the plan. The most well-known of the suspects is a 25-year-old whose hidden-camera expose posing as a pimp with his prostitute infuriated the liberal group ACORN. Source:

<http://www.wdam.com/Global/story.asp?S=11887630>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Phishing scam targets users of Adobe PDF Reader. A new phishing scam is trying to fool people into thinking it comes from Adobe, announcing a new version of PDF Reader/Writer. The message is making its way into e-mail boxes today, and the real Adobe urged any recipients to simply delete it. The phishing scam has a subject line "download and upgrade Adobe PDF Reader – Writer for Windows," includes a fake version of Adobe's logo and provides links that would lead to malicious code or other trouble if a victim clicked on them. The e-mail appears to come from Adobe newsletter@pdf-adobe.org, which is part of the scam. "It has come to Adobe's attention that e-mail messages purporting to offer a download of the Adobe Reader have been sent by entities claiming to be Adobe," the company said in a statement warning about it. "Many of these e-mails are signed as 'Adobe PDF' (or similar), and in some instances require recipients to register and/or provide personal information. Please be aware that these e-mails are phishing scams and have not been sent by Adobe or on Adobe's behalf." Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/012810-phishing-scam-adobe.html>

CIA, PayPal under bizarre SSL assault. The Central Intelligence Agency, PayPal, and hundreds of other organizations are under an unexplained assault that is bombarding their websites with millions of compute-intensive requests. The "massive" flood of requests is made over the websites' SSL, or secure-sockets layer, port, causing them to consume more resources than normal connections, according to researchers at Shadowserver Foundation, a volunteer security collective. The torrent started about a week ago and appears to be caused by recent changes made to a botnet known as

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Pushdo. "What do I mean by massive? I mean you are likely seeing an unexpected increase in traffic by several million hits spread out across several hundred thousand IP addresses," a Shadowserver researcher wrote. "This might be a big deal if you're used to only getting a few hundred or thousands of hits a day or you don't have unlimited bandwidth." Shadowserver has identified 315 websites that are the recipients of the SSL assault. In addition to cia.gov and paypal.com, other sites include yahoo.com, americanexpress.com, and sans.org. It is not clear why Pushdo has unleashed the torrent. Infected PCs appear to initiate the SSL connections, along with a bit of junk, disconnect, and then repeat the cycle. They do not request any resources from the Web site or do anything else. "We find it hard to believe this much activity would be used to make the bots blend in with normal traffic, but at the same time it doesn't quite look like a DDoS either," he wrote. Security mavens are not sure what targeted sites can do to thwart the attacks. Changing IP addresses may provide a temporary reprieve. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/29/strange_ssl_web_attack/

Warnings made of application bug in new Facebook dashboard, as SEO poisoning causes concern after 'unnamed app' reports by users. A week of fresh bugs in Facebook has ended with a warning about a privacy oversight in the new Facebook dashboard. Blog site allfacebook.com has reported that users can view the latest applications that their friends have been using whether or not they want you to. It said that while Facebook will 'probably' resolve this issue before launch, beta games and applications dashboards are visible to everybody. A developer told the site: "I may not want my boss to know that I'm playing games during work hours. Or I may not want my friends knowing that I ran the 'How Perverted are You?' application." A blogger reported that hundreds of people were continuing to post status updates about the issue and while users are claiming that it is spyware, Facebook has reported that it is a bug which should not damage your account or computer in any way. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/warnings-made-of-application-bug-in-new-facebook-dashboard-as-seo-poisoning-causes-concern-after-unnamed-app-reports-by-users/article/162631/>

Stolen Twitter Accounts Can Fetch \$1,000: Since 2005, [cybercriminals] have been developing new data-stealing malware that is now a growing problem on the Internet. Some of these programs look for banking passwords, others hunt for on-line gaming credentials. But the fastest-growing data stealers are generic spying programs that try to steal as much information as possible from their victims, said Kaspersky Researcher Dmitry Bestuzhev.... In 2009, Kaspersky identified about 70,000 of these programs -- twice as many as the year before, and close to three times the number of banking password stealing programs. ... Bestuzhev has seen Gmail accounts for sale on Russian hacker forums, (asking price 2,500 roubles, or \$82) RapidShare accounts going for \$5 per month, as well as Skype, instant messaging and Facebook credentials being offered. Asking prices can vary greatly, depending on the name of the account and the number of followers, but attackers are looking for an initial, trusted, stepping stone from which to send malicious Twitter messages and, ideally, infect more machines. [Date: 29 January 2010; Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/188131/>]

Google Toolbar caught tracking users when 'disabled'. Google has updated its browser toolbar after the application was caught tracking urls even when specifically "disabled" by the user. In a January 25 blog post, a Harvard professor and noted Google critic provided video evidence of the Google toolbar transmitting data back to the Mountain View Chocolate Factory after he chose to disable the

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application in the browser window he was currently using. The Google toolbar offers two disable options: one is meant to disable the toolbar “permanently,” and the other is meant to disable the app “only for this window.” In a statement passed to The Register, Google has acknowledged the bug. According to the statement, the bug affects Google Toolbar versions 6.3.911.1819 through 6.4.1311.42 for Internet Explorer. An update that fixes the bug is now available here, and the company intends to automatically update users’ toolbars sometime today. The statement also says that the bug does not occur if you open a new tab after disabling the toolbar for a particular window. In the statement, Google goes on to say that the bug disappears if you restart your browser, but this does not quite make sense. If you are interested in disabling Google toolbar for a particular window, you are not going to close that window. Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/27/google_toolbar_caught_transmitting_data_when_disabled/

Cybercrime increasing faster than company defenses. Cybercrime threats posed to targeted organizations are increasing faster than many organizations can combat them. Moreover, a new survey suggests the threat of cybercrime is heightened by current security models that are only minimally effective against cyber criminals. More than 500 respondents, including business and government executives, professionals and consultants, participated in the survey. The survey is a cooperative effort of CSO, the U.S. Secret Service, Software Engineering Institute CERT Program at Carnegie Mellon University and Deloitte’s Center for Security & Privacy Solutions. The 2010 CyberSecurity Watch Survey uncovered a drop in victims of cybercrimes (60 percent vs. 66 percent in 2007), however, the affected organizations have experienced significantly more attacks than in previous years. Between August 2008 and July 2009 more than one third (37 percent) of respondents experienced an increase in cybercrimes compared to the previous year. Although the number of incidents rose, the ramifications have not been as severe. Since 2007, when the last cybercrime survey was conducted, the average monetary value of losses resulting from cybercrimes declined by 10 percent. This can likely be attributed to an increase in both IT security spending (42 percent) and corporate/physical security spending (86 percent) over the past two years. Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=8769>

PlayStation 3 hack released online. Days after announcing he had managed to hack Sony’s PlayStation 3 console to run his own software, the hardware hacker has released the exploit online. The hacker, who is best known for cracking Apple’s iPhone, said in a blog posting that he had decided to release the exploit to see what others could do with it and because he wanted to move on to other work. With the release of the exploit online many programmers will likely start to examine the PlayStation 3 for ways to get deeper into the system. For some the prime goal will be to crack the encryption system that ensures illegally copied games cannot be played on the console while others will likely be motivated by the technical challenge of running their own software on the powerful PlayStation 3 platform. The exploit the hacker has found works with the PlayStation 3’s OtherOS feature that allows a second operating system to be installed on the machine. This feature was discontinued on newer model machines, the so-called “PS3 Slim” consoles. Sony is also examining the code. Its Tokyo-based gaming unit, Sony Computer Entertainment, said it is looking into the claims made by the hacker and declined to comment until it has finished its investigation. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9149398/PlayStation_3_hack_released_online

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Whirlpool allows old stains to linger on Kitchenaid.com site. Domestic appliance manufacturer Whirlpool has come under fire for failing to clean up a malware infection on one of its sites, months after it was notified of a problem by UK anti-virus firm Sophos. Sophos tried for months to clean-up its Kitchenaid.com website, without success, before going public on the problem on Friday. The kitchen utensil selling site remains infected with the BadsrC-C (AKA Asprox) strain of malware five months after a Sophos customer reported a problem, which the security firm forwarded to the white goods firm. The malicious script points towards nowhere at present, so there is not an immediate risk. The problem is that this may change at any time, hence the need for remedial action that Whirlpool seems reluctant to take. The Asprox strain of malware still lingering on Kitchenaid.com's website has been linked to phishing spam. SQL injection attacks on vulnerable website have been a preferred method for spreading malware. Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/25/kitchenaid_malware_lingers/

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

Firefighters say controlled burns may help endangered bird survive. For years we have heard how prescribed burns help keep lives and property safe by reducing the underbrush that fuel wildfires; however, officials at the USDA Forest Service say there is yet another purpose which is to provide better habitat for wildlife. In fact, the firefighters say some of the controlled burns underway now could be what keeps an endangered bird from going extinct. The key for firefighters is to figure out how to burn the brush but not the tree. Forest Service officials say the prescribed burns help other wildlife as well. Forest Service officials say they hope to hold controlled burns over 80,000 to 90,000 acres this year from Hattiesburg to the Coast. Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=11891090>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

Sheriff's department investigates mailbox bombs. From the Grant County Sheriff's Office: Resident in the 1800 block of Model Road in Cuba City notified the Grant County Sheriff's Department that their mailbox had been damaged sometime Saturday evening, the 23rd, to Sunday morning, the 24th. It appeared someone had placed a plastic bottle, with some kind of chemical in it, that caused a small explosion and damaged the mailbox. Another mailbox was found with the same type of material in it on Slaats Road, but no damage was claimed. Source:

<http://www.nbc15.com/news/headlines/82726052.html>

Postal threats. An Elmira man could be facing federal charges after police say he made threats to Elmira postal workers Friday night. Police identified the man as a 50 year old from Elmira. The President of the Postal Union says the suspect made death threats over the phone to employees at the Sullivan Street facility. Elmira Police are not getting into specifics of those threats. But they have met with postal inspectors to see if federal charges could be filed. The suspect was arrested on January 22 in Elmira and charged with aggravated harassment. Police say the suspect has a connection with a person who is currently employed at the facility. But they would not say what that connection was. Source: <http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Postal-Threats/JJWo0q-jh0e1JIODNe4slw.csp>

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White powder mailed to Bishop Ludden High School. When the Bishop Ludden School's principal in Geddes, New York opened a standard white envelope addressed to the school Monday morning, he never expected he would have to call the authorities. "Our principal received a letter in the mail that upon opening it, contained a suspicious white substance," said the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Syracuse. "At that time, he immediately called upon his assistant principal. They kicked the emergency plan into place. They called the Geddes police and involved the police immediately." A Geddes police investigator says the letter was handwritten. But what it said cannot be revealed at this time. The powder it was covered in, unknown. The superintendent says the principal was the only one that came into contact with the envelope and that students were never in danger. "The ventilation in this particular part of the building was off. Our buildings are all steam heat so there is no ventilation running in the wintertime. There's no forced air. So that's why we knew that students were not in danger," he said. Geddes Police are working with postal inspectors and the FBI. They say they do not want to reveal too many details at this time as to avoid the likes of a copy cat. Source: http://news10now.com/watertown-north-news-1052-content/top_stories/494252/suspicious-powder-sent-to-bishop-ludden-hs

Bomb squad sent to local post office to check out suspicious package. The McLennan, Texas, County Sheriff's Office bomb squad was dispatched to the U.S. Post Office on West Highway 6 Saturday after an employee discovered a suspicious package on top of a mailbox. The Post Office was closed down while the bomb squad used a robot to knock the package off of the mailbox. The return address was that of a local attorney whose secretary told police that the package containing a book was inadvertently left on top of the mailbox. Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/82551172.html>

PUBLIC HEALTH

FDA recalls more than 2 million needles used in port implants. Millions of needles used in ports implanted under the skin of chronically ill patients are being voluntarily recalled, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Tuesday. More than 2 million Huber needles, manufactured by Nipro Medical Corp. in Japan and distributed by Exelint International Corp., headquartered in Los Angeles, California, are affected. Huber needles are used primarily in hospitals and clinics — and in some instances by patients receiving long-term treatment at home — to draw blood or to inject medicine, other nutritional solutions or blood products. They are used with ports, which are small medical appliances placed under the skin. The Class 1 recall — denoting that the FDA considers the product to be of the highest risk — involves Exel/Exelint Huber needles, Exel/Exelint Huber Infusion Sets and Exel/Exelint "Securetouch+" Safety Huber Infusion Sets. Approximately 6 million Huber needles are used each year in the United States. The agency determined that 60 to 70 percent of Exelint's needles "cored," or cut slivers of silicone, when inserted into ports, raising the possibility of the silicone slivers entering the veins, damaging the port itself or harming the surrounding tissue. There have been reports of leakage, the FDA said, but none of silicone entering the vascular system as a result of the needles. It said anyone using the products should stop immediately and return any unused needles to Exelint. Investigations are being done of needles from 20 companies, and 10 of those investigations have been completed, the agency said. So far, no other products have been recalled. The FDA said it has sent letters to all Huber manufacturers asking them to address any

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design or manufacturing problems. There was no immediate public comment from Exelint. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/01/26/needles.recall/?hpt=T2>

U.S. gets 'F' in preparation for threat of biological terrorism, report concludes. The United States has failed to adequately prepare for the threat of biological terrorism, a report concluded Tuesday. The Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism gave the government an "F" for bioweapon preparedness. It said the blame could be shared among Democratic and Republican administrations and Congress. The White House does not agree with the commission's failing grade, an unnamed source told the Associated Press. A report issued Monday by Harvard University said al-Qaida was still pursuing biological, chemical, and nuclear weaponry. The commission said this country's response to the H1N1 flu showed that authorities were not ready for a bioterror attack. Preventing a bioterror attack is difficult, so the best deterrent is a strong response mechanism, the report said. The commission did find progress in some of the 17 areas studied. It gave the government above-average grades for openness of public communications regarding weapons of mass destruction, and for the President's efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. But it gave a "D+" to the government's efforts to regulate "high containment" laboratories that study dangerous pathogens. Source:

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics/story/1710371.html>

Phone threat locks down Ottawa Regional Hospital. A threatening telephone call to Ottawa Regional Hospital from a 42-year-old man allegedly distraught over a teddy bear gift locked down the medical facility for an undisclosed period Monday night. According to police reports the Ottawa man identified himself to a staff nurse, who supposedly recognized his voice from previous contacts, and threatened to "shoot up the place." Police were then notified of the phone threat at 8:35 p.m. A lockdown of the building was immediately organized by an off-duty Ottawa police employee working as a night security officer in accordance with standard procedure at the medical facility. Ottawa police, assisted by La Salle County Sheriff's officers, rushed to the caller's home northwest of the city where they found the man "distraught, angry and disoriented." Allegedly, the man said he was upset about a stuffed teddy bear of his that was given by a relative to another relative who was a patient at the hospital. Authorities said the man had ingested an unknown quantity of prescription medications earlier in the day and, because of his agitated condition, had to be transported by Ottawa emergency personnel to the very hospital he had just threatened. A spokesperson for the La Salle County State's Attorney's Office said the incident is under review and charges against the man may be filed in the near future. A spokeswoman with Ottawa Regional Hospital declined to comment. Source:

<http://mywebtimes.com/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=396427>

Fake forms of Glaxo diet drug can be dangerous: FDA. Lab tests showed counterfeit versions of Glaxo's pill Alli contained high levels of sibutramine, Food and Drug Administration officials said. Sibutramine is the active ingredient in Abbott Laboratories Inc's prescription diet drug Meridia. "The amount of sibutramine in the counterfeit Alli poses a serious health risk to some individuals," the head of the FDA's drug unit, told reporters on a conference call. "A person taking the counterfeit Alli as directed would be exposed to twice the maximum prescription dose of sibutramine every day," she said. The FDA warned earlier this week that sibutramine should not be used by people with a history of cardiovascular disease because it can raise the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Regulators in Europe concluded sibutramine was too risky and Abbott agreed to suspend sales there. The fake versions were sold on the Internet, including through online auction sites, FDA officials said. There is

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no evidence of counterfeit versions in stores, they said. The fake products were sold as 60-milligram, 120-count refill packages only, Glaxo said. The company said it was working with the FDA to have the counterfeits removed from online auction sites. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60N00P20100124>

Fire at medical clinic appears to be arson. The Bush Airport Medical Clinic in northeast Harris County, Texas was burned and investigators say it looks like someone set fire to it on purpose. Crews boarded up store fronts and business owners swept away a mix of smoke residue and broken glass. "It was not a Molotov cocktail, but it was an intentionally set fire," said a lieutenant with the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office. Investigators say just before midnight Sunday, someone used kerosene or gasoline to set it on fire. Most of the fire was confined to the waiting room and the reception area. Source:

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7236884>

TRANSPORTATION

U.S. GAO - Homeland Security: Better Use of Terrorist Watchlist Information and Improvements in Deployment of Passenger Screening Checkpoint Technologies Could Further Strengthen Security.

The GAO released the following report summary: The December 25, 2009, attempted bombing of flight 253 raised questions about the federal government's ability to protect the homeland and secure the commercial aviation system. This statement focuses on the government's efforts to use the terrorist watchlist to screen individuals and determine if they pose a threat, and how failures in this process contributed to the December 25 attempted attack. This statement also addresses the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) planned deployment of technologies for enhanced explosive detection and the challenges associated with this deployment. GAO's comments are based on products issued from September 2006 through October 2009 and selected updates in January 2010. For these updates, GAO reviewed government reports related to the December 25 attempted attack and obtained information from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and TSA on use of the watchlist and new technologies for screening airline passengers (the full report can be accessed by clicking on the source link). Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-401T>

Amtrak passenger carrying anarchist literature detained in Colorado after overheard threats. An Amtrak passenger who alarmed fellow passengers in Colorado by talking about terrorist threats on a cell phone was pulled from the train and faces a felony charge of endangering public transportation. The 64 year-old suspect, who was recently released from prison, was arrested Tuesday on an Amtrak passage from Los Angeles to Chicago. Passengers on the train alerted authorities after hearing the man from Elizabeth, New Jersey, mention al-Qaida and make threats in a cell phone conversation. Police said in an affidavit that passengers overheard the suspect saying he hadn't killed anyone yet, and that he talked about going to jail. Passengers say the man said, "We have to work in small groups. They can hold you for 18 months. Do they have security on these trains? Are you with me or not?" One passenger said he heard the suspect mention al-Qaida, saying, "17th century tactics won't work, we have 21st century tactics." The conductor said the suspect had a tan blanket over his entire body so the conductor could not see what he was doing. The suspect was taken into custody at the La Junta train station in southeastern Colorado. Police said he was not armed or carrying explosives. He was carrying propaganda for an anarchist group called Afrikan Liberation Army. The suspect was released Thursday night after posting \$30,000 bond, said the Otero County sheriff. The suspect's next court date in Otero County District Court is February 5. An FBI spokeswoman did not

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immediately have any information. Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-colorado-train-threat,0,7652045.story>

Northwest bomb attempt: Response was botched in aftermath of Flight 253 landing. The Christmas Day bombing attempt aboard Northwest Flight 253 touched off a series of blunders that deprived emergency ground crews of critical information and exposed travelers in the McNamara Terminal to danger if another bomb or accomplice had been on board, according to aviation experts and records obtained by the Free Press. The flight from Amsterdam, Netherlands, with nearly 300 people aboard, taxied right to Gate A24 instead of going to an isolated area where baggage and passengers could be screened for explosives — a move several terrorism security experts called highly inappropriate. Despite crew and passengers having subdued a suspect who tried to ignite explosives in his underwear, Northwest pilots radioed air traffic control only about a disturbance — a man with firecrackers, records show. Airport police and fire reports obtained by the Free Press also show that baggage handlers continued to unload luggage from the plane even though a ramp supervisor said he believed he overheard the terrorism suspect say, "There's a bomb on the plane" as he was escorted off. The area was not evacuated; there was no immediate search for a bomb. Nearly two hours after the plane landed, authorities moved the aircraft to an isolated area to retrieve a carry-on left by the suspect. A passenger had alerted them to the bag. Passengers were allowed to leave the plane before a thorough search. Source:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100129/NEWS05/1290375/1321/Response-botched-after-Northwest-bomb-attempt>

US looks to UN for new airline security standards. The United States is looking to a low-profile UN agency to help set tough new global airline security standards, the Homeland Security Secretary and officials said Tuesday. Chastened by a Christmas Day plot to blow up a trans-Atlantic passenger jet, the US is looking to the International Civil Aviation Organization to rally countries toward new minimum security requirements. Following a meeting with European Union and airline industry representatives last week, the Secretary said there was now "a clear sense of urgency to take immediate action to strengthen security measures." The Secretary said the ICAO had backed a series of regional meetings to discuss new rules, but did not go further. US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the ICAO could provide new global rules, with one source expressing hope that legislation could start to take shape by the middle of the year. The US is also pressing for quicker transfer of passenger information as it tries to address some of the intelligence failings of the Christmas Day attack. Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ggLgt_pywpJyhVxgPyQUO7snIBfA

Explosive device set off on Virginia train tracks, feds say. Federal officials say they are investigating an explosive device that was set off on train tracks near a college campus in Harrisonburg, Virginia. A spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said local residents reported hearing a boom about 6:30 a.m. Thursday. He said local police have investigated and determined there was an explosive device on train tracks near the campus of James Madison University at Cheapeake Street and Cantrell Avenue. He said there were no injuries and terrorism is not suspected. He said ATF and the Harrisonburg police department have launched a criminal investigation. He said ATF has sent seven people to the scene, including two explosives experts. Source:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,584155,00.html>

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Concourse temporarily closed at Miami International Airport after suspicious bag found. A concourse at Miami International Airport was closed for several hours after authorities discovered a suspicious suitcase. The Transportation Security Administration says a Miami-Dade police dog alerted officers to a bag in Concourse J on Monday afternoon. The concourse, which handles mostly international flights, was evacuated, but the rest of the airport remained open. Authorities were interviewing the bag's owner. The suspicious bag was removed by a Miami-Dade bomb squad robot. It was not immediately clear if the bag was a legitimate threat. An airport spokesman says the concourse has since been reopened. Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-miami-concourse-closed,0,1964198.story>

TSA director at Norfolk International Airport accused of not following screening procedures. One of the TSA directors in charge of security screening at Norfolk International Airport has been accused of not following screening procedures. The matter has sparked an investigation involving the Transportation Security Administration. Security screening at the airport is not optional. Yet, a ranking security director at Norfolk International Airport has been accused of breaking the very protocol that his agency requires of all passengers. Sources tell NewsChannel 3 that when the Assistant Federal Security Director passed through initial security last week he was asked to submit to an additional screening. A secondary screening can be random or brought on by an alarm. He allegedly declined a second screening citing TSA protocol. Sources close to the investigation tell NewsChannel 3 that TSA agents typically do not "second screen" their own. TSA released this statement: "A full investigation into this matter is currently underway. Disciplinary action will be taken, if necessary." When asked if there was a breach in security, TSA said, "The individual in question was fully screened and there was no security breach." The incident did not rise to a level to involve airport police, however, a TSA source who witnessed the event tells NewsChannel 3 an employee not involved in the screening filed a complaint. The investigation will be a matter of how to interpret protocol regarding whether or not fellow TSAs are allowed to pass on second screenings.

Source: <http://www.wtkr.com/news/wtkr-accused-tsa-airport,0,7401119.story>

TSA investigating traveler's gun claim. The Transportation Security Administration is investigating whether an air traveler illegally carried a gun with him on a flight. The flight last month originated at Bush Intercontinental in Houston and traveled to Costa Rica. TSA officials say upon landing, the passenger went to the U.S. Embassy and admitted he had traveled with a gun. The TSA is still looking into whether the man had the gun checked in his baggage or if he carried it on board. Passengers can carry guns in checked baggage as long as they are unloaded and appropriately locked in a hard case.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7238683>

New rule for truck, bus drivers: No texting. Drivers of commercial trucks and buses are prohibited from texting under federal guidelines that the U.S. Transportation Secretary announced Tuesday. The prohibition is effective immediately. Truck and bus drivers who text while driving commercial vehicles may be subject to civil or criminal penalties of up to \$2,750, the Department of Transportation said in a news release. The release did not offer specifics on how the prohibition will be enforced. One of the nation's largest groups representing professional truck drivers — the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association — expressed support for the goal but dismay at its implementation. "We support where they are going, but not how they got there," said the group's executive vice president.

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“Making their action effective immediately bypasses normal regulatory rulemaking processes. Those processes allow actions to be vetted for unintended consequences as well as potential implementation and enforcement problems. The U.S. President also signed an executive order requiring federal employees not to text while driving government-owned vehicles or with government-owned equipment, and were ordered to comply with the move December 30. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/POLITICS/01/26/trucks.texting.ban/?hpt=T1>

FAA seeks checks of pilot oxygen systems on Boeing jets. U.S. aviation regulators have ordered inspections of emergency cockpit oxygen systems on roughly 1,300 Boeing jetliners operated by U.S. carriers, more than a decade after the manufacturer first warned airlines that certain parts posed potential fire hazards. Covering three separate Boeing models, from domestic workhorse 737 aircraft to the longest-range international 747 jumbo jets, rules proposed by the Federal Aviation Administration call for checks of some cockpit oxygen hoses that can catch fire if there is a short circuit in a nearby electrical panel. The proposed inspections and fixes, released at the end of last week, are expected to be embraced by foreign regulators. Starting more than a decade ago, Boeing received reports of problems caused by current flowing through part of the stowage box for pilot oxygen masks, which eventually can result in a hose melting or burning. The initial incident was reported on a Boeing 757 in 1997. In response, the company in 1999 issued its first round safety bulletins covering 757s and three other aircraft models, according to a Boeing spokeswoman. Boeing urged inspections of low-pressure oxygen hoses and, if necessary, replacing them with new parts that wouldn't conduct electricity. The work was to be completed “at the earliest opportunity when manpower, material and facilities are available.” Complying with manufacturer bulletins is voluntary. The issue of hazardous hoses moved back into the spotlight in June 2008, when an Airborne Express Boeing 767 cargo plane caught fire while preparing to push back from a gate at San Francisco International Airport. The fire burned a hole through the top of fuselage before it was extinguished, but the crew escaped without injury. On Friday, the FAA issued separate but identical proposed safety directives for 737s, 747s and 767s. It had previously issued essentially the same proposals covering more than 480 Boeing 757s in September 2009. Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703906204575028171518328544.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLENexttoWhatsNewsTop

Airliner forced to land after colliding with bird. A collision with a large bird forced a United Airlines plane to return to Dulles International Airport in northern Virginia, the Federal Aviation Administration said Friday. An FAA spokeswoman said United Flight 915 sucked a large bird into the airliner's right engine shortly after takeoff around 4:30 p.m. EST. She said the pilot quickly returned the plane to the airport and it landed safely. The spokeswoman said there were no injuries, but one runway was briefly closed so that it could be cleared of bird remains. A United spokeswoman said the plane was a Boeing 757-200 bound for San Francisco. She said the airline is still investigating the cause of the incident. Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1871221>

United flight diverted to Denver after passenger tries to open the door mid-flight. TSA officials have confirmed that United Airlines flight flying from Washington D.C. to Las Vegas has been diverted to Denver airport after a passenger tried to open an exterior door on the plane while it was airborne. An airport spokesman says that United Flight 223 was diverted to Denver at 5:10 p.m. Saturday, and the passenger has been taken into custody by the police waiting at the gate. The spokesman said that it is “virtually impossible” to open an exterior door in mid-flight. The passenger, crew members and other

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passengers were being questioned by the FBI. There were 129 passengers and 5 crew members on the flight. Source: <http://www.eturbonews.com/14001/united-flight-diverted-denver-after-passenger-tries-open-door-mi>

Teens jailed in sniper shootings. Latah County Sheriff Deputies have arrested two juveniles in connection with at least 20 reports of vehicles being hit with gunfire along Highway 8 near Forks Road, just east of Helmer, Idaho. The shootings closed a portion of Highway 8 from milepost 29 to milepost 34, between Bovill and Deary, Friday afternoon. Police fielded multiple calls from people saying they had been shot at while driving in the area. Latah County Deputies and Idaho State Police set up a perimeter around the shooting scene and began to look for the suspects. Deputies found the spot where the teens had been shooting from and later arrested two juvenile boys. Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/hbo/2010/jan/22/kxly-teens-jailed-sniper-shootings/>

WATER AND DAMS

EWG study finds hundreds of pollutants in nation's drinking water. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) has released a report indicting the nation's drinking water supplies are being highly contaminated with pollutants. An analysis of 20 million water quality tests performed between 2004 and 2009 revealed that many local and regional water supplies are tainted with up to 316 different toxic chemicals, many of which are unregulated by current federal standards. Of the over 300 pollutants found, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set safe maximum limits for only 114 of them, leaving the remaining 64 percent unrecognized as pollutants and unregulated by toxin laws. Nearly 10,000 American communities comprised of roughly 132 million people are receiving over 200 unregulated chemicals in their water supplies. Experts question the long-term safety of ingesting such tainted water, citing the fact that even existing federal laws about regulated chemicals suggest that tap water is unsafe for long-term ingestion. The senior vice president for research at EWG notes that federal guidelines have failed to keep up with the growing number of toxic contaminants being found in drinking water. Utility companies, she says, are doing their best to purify water and make it safe to drink, but federal laws must be amended to include new chemicals in order to protect water supplies from unnecessary contamination. Source: http://www.naturalnews.com/028026_drinking_water_pollutants.html

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** 866-885-8295; email: ndslic@nd.gov ; FAX: 701-328-8175

State Radio: 800-472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** 701-328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455

US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875 **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact the Fusion Center:

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